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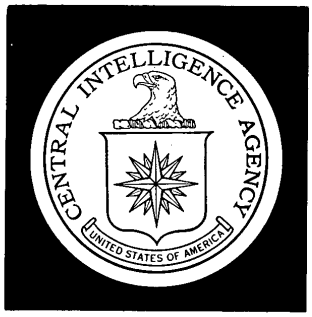

The President's Daily Brief

25 January 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 January 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, the enemy continues to employ small harassing attacks and terrorist tactics in and around Phnom Penh. *(Page 1)*

Poland's new leaders made several moves over the weekend to correct the country's labor unrest. *(Page 2)*

Hanoi is still augmenting its forces along both sides of the North Vietnam - Laos border. *(Page 4)*

South Korea [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] South Vietnam. *(Page 5)* 50X1

Enemy military activity in South Vietnam is expected to be light during the Tet cease-fire. *(Page 6)*

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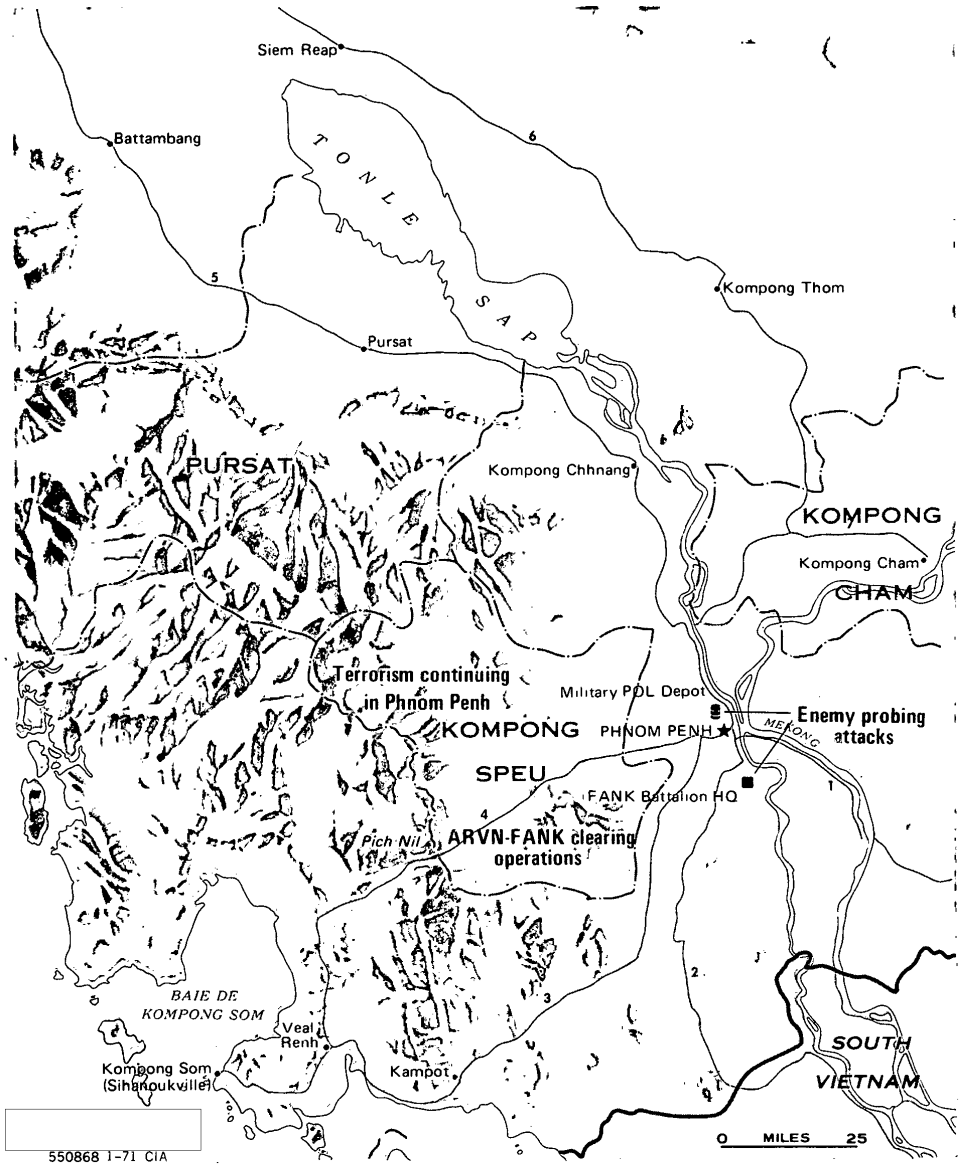
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

In Phnom Penh, the third terrorist bombing incident in as many days destroyed a small building next to an electric company office yesterday but did not cause serious damage to any power facilities. Last night the Pochentong airport received light mortar or rocket fire and some automatic weapons fire but there were no casualties or damage. Outside the capital, Communist probing attacks on a military petroleum storage area just north of Phnom Penh and against a government battalion several miles southeast of the city were quickly repelled over the weekend. The government has strengthened Phnom Penh's defenses with five battalions from Pursat and Kompong Speu provinces and has ordered several other battalions now operating in the Route 6-7 sector in Kompong Cham Province to return to the capital immediately.

> *The city's population has been concerned about the army's ability to protect them since the airfield raid last week, and these reinforcements may renew their confidence. The arrival of additional government troops is not likely to discourage or prevent the Communists from carrying out additional harassing attacks and terrorist actions, however.*

Further west, Cambodian and South Vietnamese forces are now engaged in clearing operations and road repair on Route 4, following their linkup in the Pich Nil pass area. The highway may be passable for some traffic today. One South Vietnamese ranger battalion has been airlifted back to South Vietnam, and some Cambodian forces that helped secure the north end of the pass are also anxious to return to their home base.

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POLAND

Polish authorities reacted promptly over the weekend to large-scale work stoppages in or around Szczecin. Party leader Gierek visited Szczecin yesterday afternoon to address a workers' meeting, and there were numerous flights of transport aircraft between 21 and 23 January from Warsaw to Goleniow, the military airfield nearest the port city.

There have been no reports of violence in Szczecin, but these planes may very well have carried police reinforcements in the event there is further trouble. Szczecin was one of the major areas of disorder during the rioting last month, and because of its proximity to the East German border, Poland's new leaders may have received some pressure from Ulbricht to make a special effort to keep the lid on Szczecin.

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Gierek's trip to Szczecin may be the first in a series of face-to-face discussions with the workers in accordance with labor's demands.

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It was announced on Saturday that the minister of interior had requested and received a leave of absence for health reasons. The same day, however, Jaroszewicz submitted a motion to parliament calling for his ouster.

The outgoing minister appears to be the first scapegoat for the violence last month on the Baltic coast. The way his departure was handled suggests that a last minute decision was made not to let him down softly. The leadership may have reasoned that a "leave of absence" would not satisfy the workers and fired him outright.

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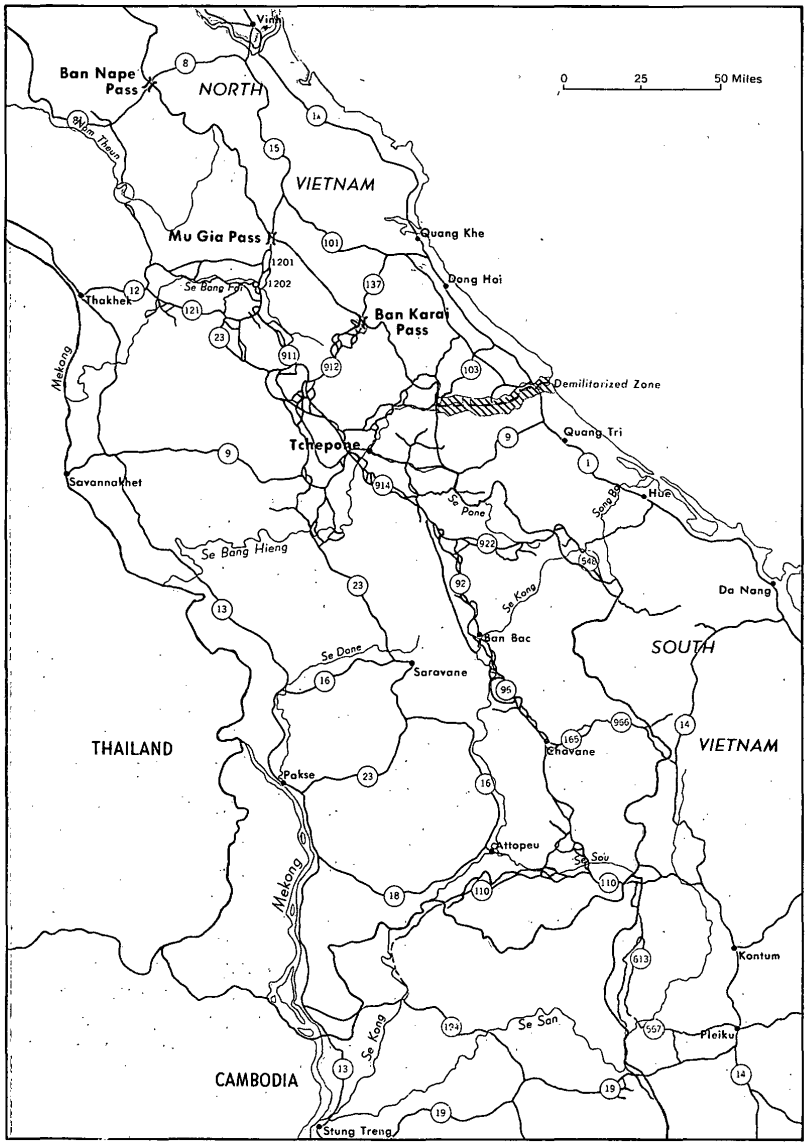

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NORTH VIETNAM

Hanoi is continuing to strengthen its ground defenses in southern North Vietnam and in the Laotian panhandle to protect the significantly increased flow of supplies down the Ho Chi Minh trail.

The only elements of the North Vietnamese 320th Division still in North Vietnam, the division headquarters and the 64th Regiment, appear to be moving into the Laotian panhandle. A regiment from the 308th Division--the 102nd--has meanwhile joined the rest of the division in southern North Vietnam. The 308th has been moving steadily southward for several months from its garrison just below Hanoi. Intercepts indicate that the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division is still in the Tchepone area of the Laos panhandle and not on its way back to South Vietnam.

These ground forces appear to be controlled by a major new headquarters, set up in southern North Vietnam last fall. The headquarters appears to be directing all units along the enemy's logistical network on both sides of the North Vietnam - Laos border and as far south as central South Vietnam.

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SOUTH KOREA - SOUTH VIETNAM

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TET CEASE-FIRE PERIODS

Tet Holiday January 27-29

		Saigon	Washington
Communist	Begins	Jan. 26-0100	Jan. 25-1200
	Ends	Jan. 30-0100	Jan. 29-1200
Allied	Begins	Jan. 26-1800	Jan. 26-0500
	Ends	Jan. 27-1800	Jan. 27-0500

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NOTES

South Vietnam: An analysis of reports indicates that the Communists will generally abide by their unilateral four-day Tet cease-fire which begins today. Preparations for post-Tet military action continue to surface, however. One enemy unit radioed recently that the next round of offensive activity is to begin the night of 31 January - 1 February--a day after the conclusion of the cease-fire. The northern provinces and the sector northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border continue to be the most likely targets for enemy action.

Uganda: US Embassy officials report the heavy gunfire that echoed throughout Kampala last night had slackened by dawn. Tanks have been sighted on the streets, and the parliament building appears to be isolated. The military may have moved to unseat President Obote who has not yet returned from the Commonwealth conference in Singapore. On the other hand, the army is renowned for its poor discipline, and its many divisive factions may be settling some old scores among themselves.

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